

# Friendly Life

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## Friendlies open largest private Day Oncology service between Townsville and Sunshine Coast

A **\$700,000 EXPANSION** at the Friendly Society Private Hospital will ensure more Bundaberg region residents with a cancer diagnosis will have quality treatment available to them, without the need to travel to Brisbane.

The Friendly Society Private Hospital this month officially opened the new unit, which more than doubles in size from the previous service.

Friendly Society Private Hospital CEO Alan Cooper said the oncology expansion had been a high priority since the space became available in February.

"Cancer diagnosis and treatment is one of the most difficult situations our patients have to face and we are committed to ensuring the space where they receive

their treatment is as comfortable as it can be and that we do everything we can to provide them the best quality treatment and services possible."

The Friendlies opened the former Day Oncology Unit in 2011, after a growing need for a dedicated oncology treatment space. The hospital then welcomed its current permanent oncologist Dr Vikram Jain in April 2012.

"The expanded oncology unit will not only be more comfortable for patients, but also for their visitors and loved ones as well. We will have an expanded waiting room, larger treatment areas and a dedicated space for video conferencing and specialist consultation," Mr Cooper said.

Mr Cooper said The Friendlies continued

to focus on providing excellent care to all people in the Wide Bay and Burnett region.

"Patients at The Friendlies have no out-of-pocket expenses for chemotherapy and related drugs and they have access to cancer council nurses and volunteers.

"They also have access to our allied health team of physiotherapists, occupational therapists and a dietitian, as well as seven-day access to our dedicated oncologist Dr Jain.

"We also have a 'total care' approach to our patients, with a multi-disciplinary team of surgeons, general physicians, radiation oncologist, radiographer, urologist, gynecologist, cardiologist and nurse manager who meet and review all cases weekly."

## Community Support essential to expansion

**SUPPORT FROM THE COMMUNITY** has been essential in expanding the oncology service at The Friendlies.

The Friendlies Foundation made its first donation to the Day Oncology Unit, in an amount of \$20,000.

"It is wonderful that The Friendlies Foundation, through the support of the community, is able to help the hospital fund the refurbishment of this unit," public

relations officer Fiona Macaulay said.

"We were also grateful to receive a donation of \$1100, which was used to purchase tray arms for the new oncology chairs."

"The Friendlies Foundation can't thank the Bundaberg and District Cancer Support Group for considering The Friendlies and helping us to provide these extra comfort items for our patients."



## BE A PART OF 'THE FRIENDLIES' FUTURE

We are looking for energetic people who would like to join our team.

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### Positions Available

- Registered Nurses
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# Chairman and family raise \$700,000 for outback mental health support

FINDING OUT THE suicide rate for men in the outback is up to three-times higher than their coast counterparts prompted Friendly Society Private Hospital board chairman Les Hancock to establish an event that has raised \$700,000 in just five events.

Mr Hancock, along with wife Shelley and son Damian founded RideWest in 2010, a charity cycling event to raise money for the Royal Flying Doctor Service, for its primary health care role in the area of mental health in the outback.

"The event has been a great success," Mr Hancock said.

*"We have had five charity cycle rides, four from Brisbane to Longreach and one ride from Longreach to Tenant Creek, and we have raised and donated in excess of \$700,000 to the Royal Flying Doctor Service."*

Mrs Hancock has been the event manager for all five rides, while Les and

Damian rode in all rides – a total of more than 6000km

"In our most recent ride in May this year, we had 22 riders who raised in excess of \$210,000 for the 7-day event," Mr Hancock said.

The Hancock family have stepped away from the RideWest event management, although Les remains as the event chairman.

Mr Hancock is now keen to use his experience to bring a similar charity cycling event closer to home.

"I have been a board member at The Friendlies for 15 years and the chair for the past 12 months and one of the most exciting things we have been able to do is launch The Friendlies Foundation," he said.

"We are going to use our RideWest experience to establish a 3-day, fully supported ride for about 60 cyclists over the May day long weekend in 2017.

"The ride will begin and end in Bundaberg,



Above: Damian, Shelley and Les Hancock at the recent RideWest charity cycling event. The Friendlies chairman will be starting a charity cycling event in Bundaberg in aid of The Friendlies Foundation.

but take in the beautiful region west of here to areas like Biggenden, Gayndah and Mt Perry."

Mr Hancock said the aim of the charity ride would be to raise \$100,000 for The Friendlies Foundation, to go towards expanding the cardiology services offered at The Friendlies.

The event has already attracted three major sponsors in Auswide Bank, Ulton and RBS Morgans.

## Cane2Coral

HUNDREDS OF THE FRIENDLIES staff showed their support for the seventh Friendlies Cane2Coral recently.

The Friendly Society Private Hospital is proud to have been the naming rights sponsor of the event since its inception and each year the entire team get behind those who are participating, training and fundraising.

From the Friendlies Physiotherapy Service giving massages to racegoers at the finish line, to the 80-odd nurses, staff and volunteers from The Friendlies that staff the water stations along the way, to the staff that participate in the walk or run, The Friendlies are involved every step of the way.



Above: Friendlies Cane2Coral president Jason Pascoe, Crystalgem and Trophies Kim Mugan and Friendly Society Private Hospital business development manager Stuart Bonnett.

*This year, The Friendlies also donated the colourful medallions that were given to all participants.*

Friendly Society Private Hospital business development manager Stuart Bonnett said after supplying the race hats to the Friendlies Cane 2 Coral for the past six years, it was nice to have a change to the medallions.

"We have lots of race regulars, so it is good to be able to offer participants something different this year as recognition for their participation and achievement," Mr Bonnett said.

"The colours of the lanyard also mean racers can display their achievement, big or small, around their neck with pride."



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## A Cardiac Christmas in July

CHRISTMAS CAME a little early to our Cardiac Services team when they celebrated the year so far with a Christmas in July event.

Staff members Keeley Lyon, Shaun Stallan and Ben World thought it would be a great way to celebrate, while having a little fun along the way wearing silly Christmas jumpers that are normally unsuitable for an Aussie Christmas.

Held at an out-of-town property, Keeley, Shaun and Ben created a comfortable, homely but professional Winter Wonderland Setting.

Shaun and Ben created and cooked a 5-star menu for 60 people

from Cardiac Services.

*Champagne on arrival was provided by Carolyn Wilson, with a photobooth, beautiful flower wall and fake snow to create the winter wonderland effect, followed by a late-night bonfire.*

Keeley said it was a night of amazing food and friends that resulted in a celebration that will not be forgotten in a long time.



## Diversity of Bundaberg orthopaedic services highlighted at information evening

ADVANCES IN TECHNOLOGY and the diversity of orthopaedic services available in Bundaberg was the focus of a medical information evening held recently.

Four leading orthopaedic surgeons, Dr Michael Delaney, Dr Jacob Van der Westhuizen, Dr Chris O'Brien and Dr Andrew McGee, joined with the Friendly Society Private Hospital to speak to local GPs and other medical professionals about a variety of topics such as knee, shoulder and hip pain, management and surgery.

Dr Delaney said information evenings such as this one were a good opportunity to provide some general education to doctors.

is a team approach (with The Friendlies) to provide quality care," Dr Delaney said.

It is the third medical information evening held by The Friendlies, with previous nights focusing on cardiology and women's health services, and a fourth evening planned for November, with 60-70 people attending each event.

The Friendlies business development



Above: Orthopaedic surgeons Dr Jacob Van der Westhuizen, Dr Chris O'Brien, Dr Andrew McGee and Dr Michael Delaney spoke at the recent Friendlies Medical Information Evening.

*"The more GPs know about what our specialists do, the better the outcomes for patients who are then able to be treated locally, removing the need for them to have to travel to Brisbane."*

"It allows GPs to get a bit more of a sense that we are keeping abreast of technology and evidence based medicine and that it

manager Stuart Bonnett said these information evenings were beneficial for everyone involved.

"These nights are designed to showcase the specialists that work with The Friendlies and provide information to medical professionals to assist them in the care for their patients," Mr Bonnett said.

"We have such a diverse range of specialties available in Bundaberg which is continuing to grow, so it is important doctors are kept informed of what is available here in Bundaberg."

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